

# TRS NEWS

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS

JUNE 2001

## ***Texas Legislature approves new member, retiree benefits***

The 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature adjourned May 28, having included in its deliberations a number of legislative changes that will benefit TRS members and retirees. Among these is an increase in current retiree annuities plus an increase in the multiplier used in the calculation of benefits at retirement. In addition, lawmakers provided the first-ever statewide health care program for certain active public education employees. The legislature also separately funded the existing TRS-Care retiree health benefits program, which will be extended through the next biennium.

### ***Retirement Legislation***

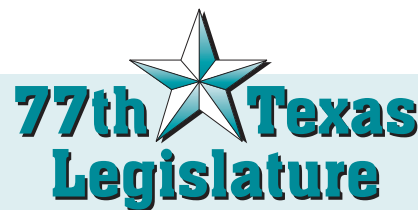
**Senate Bill 273**, by Senator Ken Armbrister and Representative Dale Tillery, contains significant improvements in TRS member benefits. The bill also includes various changes related to administrative procedures of the retirement system. The effective date is September 1, 2001, unless otherwise noted. The following summary highlights key provisions of this bill and several related initiatives as noted.

#### **Benefits**

- Increases the TRS retirement formula multiplier from 2.2 percent to 2.3 percent for each year of TRS service credit.

- Provides increases for current retirees (payable in the October 1 annuity check):

Those who retired prior to September 1, 2000, will have a 10.77 percent increase in their annuities (6 percent inflation adjustment plus the 4.5 percent multiplier



equivalent, which becomes 10.77 percent when compounded).

Those retiring between September 1, 2000, and August 31, 2001, will receive a 4.5 percent increase in their annuities, which is

*Continued on page 3.*

### **Benefit presentations announced for those planning to retire through August 2002**

This summer, TRS will offer a series of group benefit presentations for members planning to retire by August 2002.

Presentations will be held twice a day at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the dates listed below:

July 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 30

August 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31

All presentations will be conducted at the TRS building located at 1000 Red River Street in downtown Austin. Directions to the TRS building are available from the TRS Web site ([www.trs.state.tx.us](http://www.trs.state.tx.us)). Visitor parking is provided.

Interested members should complete a Group Presentation Registration form (TRS 18B), indicating the date and time of the presentation they wish to attend, **AND** a Request for Estimate of Retirement Benefits form (TRS 18). Members may download and print both forms from the TRS Web site, or they may request them by calling TRS toll-free at 1-800-223-8778. Completed forms should be mailed to:

**TRS  
Benefit Counseling  
1000 Red River Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2698**

Completed forms may also be faxed to (512) 397-6422. TRS needs to receive members' registration forms **at least one week before the date of the presentation** they wish to attend. After receiving the registration forms, TRS will prepare retirement packets and distribute them to members as they arrive at their scheduled meeting times.



## T O M E M B E R S

From Executive Director Charles L. Dunlap

The 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature has just concluded a productive session that will result in a number of benefit improvements for present and future retirees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, including the establishment of a state-wide health care coverage program for active employees of public schools.

This issue of *TRS News* is almost totally dedicated to providing early information on the good news from the session. In the coming months, we will provide additional information to you through the newsletter and Web site as legislation is implemented.

Senate Bill 273, by Senator Ken Armbrister and Representative Dale Tillery, establishes broad benefit improvements for both future and current retirees. In the next year alone, retirement benefit payments will increase over \$350 million as a result of this legislation. With close to one million members,

the present value of the future liabilities to pay these benefits is staggering, yet affordable given the system's current financial condition. We have estimated a \$4.5 billion actuarial cost for just those benefit improvements listed below. These benefit enhancements continue a stream of positive changes for members over the past 10 years and include:

- an increase in the retirement benefit multiplier from 2.20% to 2.30% per year of creditable service for all future retirees;
- a 4.5% annuity increase for all current annuitants, which is the equivalent of the benefit multiplier increase; and
- an additional 6% annuity increase for those who retired prior to 9-1-2000 in order to preserve their annuity purchasing power.

We have long reported on the need that would arise this year to secure additional funding to sustain the current retiree health care program. TRS-Care serves over 133,000 retirees and family members through options ranging from catastrophic coverage to a comprehensive plan that includes pharmacy benefits. Funding arrangements for this program were established in 1985 and have lasted many years longer than originally anticipated.

Notwithstanding the longevity of the existing funding arrangement, in recent years the separate trust fund for this program has declined to a level requiring additional state assistance if the program is to be maintained in its current form. I am very pleased to report that the legislature has committed a total of \$607 million in state funding for TRS-Care for the biennium. This is more than \$410 million above the state's existing

statutory contribution. This level of state support provides strong assurance that the program will continue through the next biennium largely as presently structured.

As national health care costs continue to increase, TRS-Care has taken steps to control costs while, at the same time, providing members with reasonable access to health care services. Such access comes in the form of geographic proximity to general medical services as well as through access to specialized services where they are needed. TRS trustees are charged with the responsibility to manage the retiree health program and will continue to do so in a responsible manner. Their challenge is to manage the plan so that expected revenues are sufficient to pay expected expenses. During the next two years, they will be guided by this goal in considering any plan changes.

Through House Bill 3343, landmark legislation was enacted establishing the Texas School Employees Uniform Group Health Coverage Act. Representative Paul Sadler and Senator Teel Bivins co-chaired the conference committee on this legislation. Leadership of both chambers and committee members all took a keen personal interest in this legislation and provided support necessary to its passage. The measure was crafted to achieve available and affordable health care coverage for public school employees with sum-certain funding by the state and targeted financial support goals by participating employers. TRS has much to do to implement this legislation.

You will find initial information on new legislation included in this issue. Please be assured of our commitment to keep you closely apprised of our progress in implementing these changes. As soon as we have additional details to share, we will include them in future *TRS News* issues and on our Web site.

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The Teacher Retirement System of Texas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. A copy of the complete TRS plan is available at the above address during normal business hours.

## Texas Legislature

Continued from page 1.

equivalent to the multiplier increase.



[Deposits to a current Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) account will likewise increase by 4.5 percent beginning with participants' October 2001 deposits.]

- Increases survivor benefits by \$50 per month to \$250 or \$350, whichever is applicable.

### Employment After Retirement \*

#### **Effective immediately:**

- Allows those retired *before* January 1, 2001, to go back to work without restriction or reduction in benefits.

- Changes provisions applicable to members retiring *on or after* January 1, 2001.

Acute Shortage Areas:

[A 12-month break in service is required, and early age retirees are excluded from participation.]

Local school boards will now determine acute shortage areas based on Texas Education Agency Commissioner guidelines.

Requires districts to give hiring preference to certified applicants that are not retirees.

Retirees may return to work as bus drivers on a full-time basis *without* a 12-month break in service; excludes early retirees.

Retirees may return to work as principals and assistant principals on a full-time basis, if certified as a principal and *with* a 12-month break in service; excludes early retirees. [House Bill 3147, by Representative Todd Smith]

\* There are no changes regarding disability retirees returning to work.



(Symbol denotes bills requiring member/retiree action in a specified time frame.)

### Special Service Purchase

- Adds a new Credit Purchase Option, allowing any TRS member with seven years actual service to buy up to three years additional service credit by paying the actuarial cost.

- Allows a one-year window (9/1/01-9/1/02) for certain TRS members to reinstate (purchase) withdrawn service credit established while employed by a public institution of higher education and while required to be enrolled as a student of that institution as a condition of employment.



- Allows a one-year window (9/1/01-9/1/02) for individuals in ERS-covered positions to reinstate (purchase) withdrawn service even if withdrawn after 1993, for the purpose of retiring under the ERS/TRS transfer law.



- Allows a one-year window (9/1/01-9/1/02) for a member of ERS with 20 years of service to purchase up to three years of service for employment in higher education if the person's part-time employment averaged 20 hours per week and the person deposits amounts required for unreported service.

- Senate Bill 477, by Senator David Bernsen, extends the provi-

Continued on page 7.

### Terminating and retiring employees: notify Aetna to continue LTC coverage

Employees with TRS group long-term care insurance coverage through Aetna who retire or terminate employment need to notify Aetna to make continued premium arrangements. To do so, just call Aetna **toll-free at 1-877-894-2462**. While this valuable coverage is portable, it is important to note that members themselves must make this call to avoid a loss of coverage.

## Still thinking about retiring this year?

While most members planning to retire in May have already made all necessary arrangements to do so, it is still not too late for members who have yet to decide whether to retire in May. Members who have terminated employment have up to two months after their desired retirement date to file an application for retirement. May retirees have until July 31 to file for retirement—provided that they terminated TRS-covered employment by June 15. (This special extension only applies to retirements for the month of May.)

Members must complete and return the TRS form titled "Application for Service Retirement" (TRS 30) no later than the last day of the second month following the month in which they plan to retire.

## May retirees should expect first annuity checks in early July

TRS frequently hears from members who have just retired and ask when they will receive their first annuity check. May retirees who receive final paychecks at the end of May will normally have their first annuity check (for the month of June) sent to them on July 1st. However, May retirees who continue to receive monthly paychecks through August will have their first annuity checks (for the months of June, July, and August) sent to them in September. August retirees should normally have their first checks (for the month of September) sent to them on October 1.

For TRS to pay out a member's first annuity check in a timely manner, the member must have terminated employment and properly completed and filed all necessary forms with TRS. TRS must also have received form TRS 7, "Notice of Final Deposit before Retirement," from the member's district before the first check can be issued.

## Purchase of state sick/personal leave option to begin September 1<sup>st</sup>

For the first time, on September 1, 2001, eligible TRS members may purchase—at the time of retirement—one year of equivalent membership service credit for 50 days or more (or 400 hours or more) of accumulated state personal and/or sick leave. This must be *unused* state leave as of the last day of employment before retirement and certified by your employer.

Not more than five days of state personal and/or sick leave may be accumulated per year toward the minimum leave required to purchase the service credit. Only one year of equivalent membership service credit may be purchased. Special rules apply to members participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) that restrict the option to purchase this type of

service credit.

To purchase the year of equivalent membership service credit, members must pay the actuarial present value of the benefit attributable to the conversion of their unused sick and/or personal leave.

To estimate how much it would cost you to purchase state personal and/or sick leave credit, please use the following worksheet:

### Estimated Cost of State Sick and/or Personal Leave Credit Worksheet

#### 1. Determine your estimated date of retirement and your age at the time of your retirement.

Estimated Retirement Date \_\_\_\_\_

Age at estimated retirement date: years \_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_

#### 2. Determine how many years of service credit you will have at your estimated retirement date.

Number of years of service \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Calculate your standard annuity:

A. List your three highest annual salaries and then add them together

Year 1- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Year 3 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year 2- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Calculate your highest average annual salary by dividing this figure by three.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ divided by 3 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C. Multiply years of service credit by 2.3 percent (.023)

\_\_\_\_\_ x .023 = \_\_\_\_\_ (total %)

D. Multiply your total percentage times your highest average salary.

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

E. Divide by 12 to convert your estimated annual standard annuity to a monthly amount.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ divided by 12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(This is your standard annuity without sick/personal leave).

#### 4. Standard Annuity without sick/personal leave

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Standard Annuity with sick/personal leave

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Repeat all steps in part 3, adding one year of service credit for your sick/personal leave)

#### 6. Increase in retirement annuity

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Subtract line 4 from line 5)

#### 7. Identify the appropriate actuarial factor shown in the table on page 8.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### 8. Estimated cost to establish one year of equivalent membership service credit

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Multiply line 6 x line 7)

### Letter to be mailed out to annuitants in mid-July

## TRS to revise tax withholding tables following federal tax cut

Congress has passed and President Bush has signed into law the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001—the largest tax reduction in 20 years.

The congressional committee report instructs the Internal Revenue Service to revise wage withholding tables, effective July 1, 2001, to

reflect rate reductions provided by the Act. As a result, TRS will once again update the tax withholding tables that are used to determine the proper amount to withhold from retiree and beneficiary payments. This change will result in an increase in the net amount received by retirees and beneficiaries.

In mid-July 2001, TRS will mail out a letter to all annuitants affected by this change. These letters will provide detailed information as to the new levels of tax withholding for TRS annuitants. Approximately 80,000 annuitants are expected to experience a change in their withholding amounts.



## Purchase special service by August 31 to avoid additional fees

Thinking about purchasing special service from TRS, but not sure if and when you should do so? Now is an excellent time to make your decision. Any TRS member who has unpaid special service may request a bill and pay for that service or begin an installment agreement by August 31 to avoid additional cost calculation fees. If you feel that you may be eligible to purchase special service, please contact TRS as early as possible to verify your eligibility.

Listed below are the types of special service that members may be eligible to purchase:

- unreported service
- substitute service
- developmental leave
- withdrawn service
- work experience credit as a career or technology teacher
- out-of-state service
- active duty military service

Service credit for state sick and/or personal leave may also be purchased at the time of retirement beginning September 1, 2001. (See article on page 4 of this issue for additional details.)

To be used in calculating service retirement benefits, you must purchase special service by your effective date of retirement or by the last day of the month in which you submit a retirement application, whichever is later.



For special service to be included in the calculation of a disability retirement benefit, you must purchase that service by the effective date of retirement, by the last day of the month in which your retirement application is filed, or within 30 days of TRS correspondence notifying you that your disability has been approved, whichever is later.

These deadlines do not apply to developmental leave. Developmental leave must be precertified (before it is taken) and must be purchased within a limited timeframe after the leave occurs.

Special service cannot be included in calculating your member death benefits unless purchased before your death. A beneficiary, however, may complete the purchase of special service that you had begun on an installment basis by paying the unpaid balance.

If you wish to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, you must purchase special service credit *prior to* your entry into DROP.

Out-of-state service, military service, ERS service, and developmental leave is evaluated for credit based on a September 1 through August 31 school year. Fees for purchasing special service vary according to the type of service. Service may be purchased by lump sum, and some types of service may be purchased on an installment plan.

Any person who has withdrawn accumulated contributions has terminated TRS service credit associated with those contributions. Terminated service credit may be reinstated by:

- returning to employment in a TRS-covered position,
- depositing the amount withdrawn,
- paying a reinstatement fee of six percent compounded annually of the amount withdrawn computed from the date of the withdrawal to the date of purchase, and
- reinstating all eligible terminated service.

For additional details on purchasing special service credit, please refer to the *TRS Benefits Handbook*, or visit the TRS Web site at [www.trs.state.tx.us](http://www.trs.state.tx.us).

## Current-year interest on withdrawn accounts now available during any month of the year

Many members may recall that prior to September 1, 1999, TRS was required by law to calculate interest on all member accounts on August 31 of each year. If members withdrew their accounts before August 31, they earned no interest for that year.

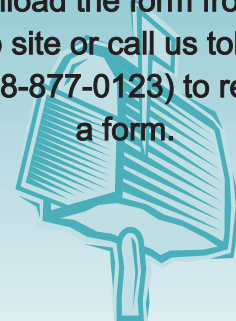
Now, members who have terminated employment in a TRS-covered position no longer need to wait until after August 31<sup>st</sup> to receive current-year interest. Instead, they can withdraw an

account *during any month of the year* and receive interest on the account.

Whenever a member requests a refund, TRS computes the interest at the rate of five percent on the mean balance in the account from September 1 of that fiscal year until the last day of the month immediately prior to the month when membership terminates. (The mean balance is the average of the member's lowest and highest balances.)

## Changed your address?

If you've moved, please notify TRS in writing (not fax) by using form TRS 358. Just download the form from our Web site or call us toll-free (1-888-877-0123) to request a form.



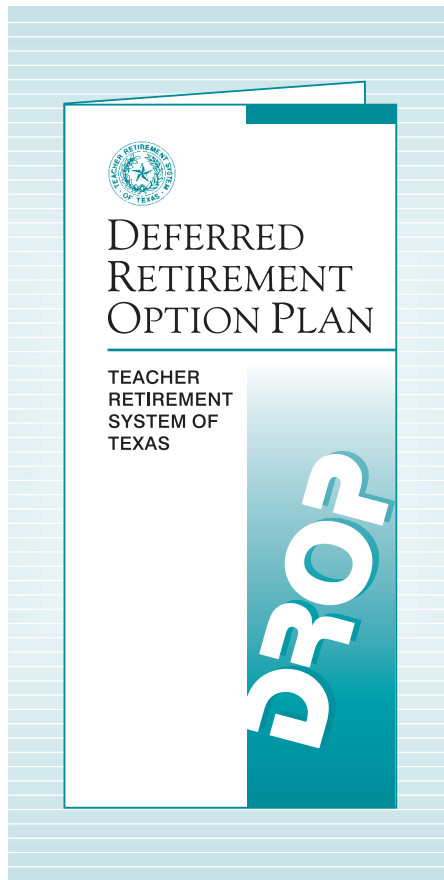
## DROP payments may have certain federal tax implications

For those under 70½ years, all Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) payments distributed over a period of less than 10 years and the taxable portion of Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) payment(s) are deemed “eligible rollover distributions.” Such payments are subject to a mandatory 20 percent tax withholding if not rolled over. For those 70½ years of age or older, any portion of such payments determined to be a “required minimum distribution” under Internal Revenue Service regulations cannot be rolled over and are subject to the 20 percent tax withholding.

Members who retire before age 55 also may be subject to a 10 percent early distribution penalty assessed by the IRS on the portion of their DROP or PLSO distribution that is not rolled over. (This early distribution penalty also applies to members who receive a refund of their member contribution account prior to age 55.)

If a member terminates TRS-covered employment at age 50 but

does not actually retire until age 55, the member’s DROP/PLSO distri-



bution would not be subject to the 10 percent early distribution penalty.

If a member elects the 120-month payout for DROP distributions, TRS will withhold according to the member’s tax withholding form using income tax tables. There may still be a 10 percent early distribution penalty if the member retires prior to age 55.

Choosing to accelerate or modify your DROP/PLSO plan could have significant tax implications. For additional information on how distributions may affect your taxes, please contact the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-3676 and order IRS Publication 575 “Pensions and Annuity Income” or visit the IRS Web site at [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).

As the federal income tax consequences of distributions can be a complex matter, TRS strongly encourages members to refer their tax questions to a tax professional or a representative of the Internal Revenue Service.

## Children’s health insurance to fit your budget

All parents want their children to have a regular family doctor to treat them when they are sick and to provide immunizations and regular physical examinations. But many think they cannot afford it.

Now because of the TexCare Partnership initiative, more than 300,000 Texas children have been enrolled in low-cost health insurance. Through this initiative, health insurance is available depending on family income and size through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid.

CHIP offers health insurance to families who earn too much to be eligible for Medicaid and do not have private health insurance for their children. CHIP rates range from as little as \$15 a year with small co-payments to \$18 a month

with slightly higher co-payments.

CHIP offers a full range of coverage, including regular checkups, immunizations, prescription drugs, eyeglasses, lab tests, X-rays, hospital visits, dental care and mental health care, as well as coverage for pre-existing conditions. A broad choice of doctors is available.

SKIP (the State Kids Insurance Program) is a plan that is equivalent to CHIP and is available to state and higher education employees as part of the state’s Uniform Group Insurance Program (UGIP). Like CHIP, SKIP is available to families who are not eligible for Medicaid and meet eligibility criteria according to family income and size. Benefits may be extended to state-employed families who have UGIP-eligible children under the age of 19 living with them.

Introduced in September 2000,

SKIP provides a 30 percent supplement toward the health insurance premiums of eligible children of full-time state and higher education employees, and 15 percent toward the health insurance premiums of eligible children of part-time state employees.

To find out if your children qualify for CHIP, call TexCare Partnership at 1-800-647-6558. Except for federal holidays, TexCare Partnership’s friendly staff answer the phones from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Information and applications for CHIP are also now available online at [www.texcarepartnership.com](http://www.texcarepartnership.com).

SKIP information and applications are available online at [www.ers.state.tx.us](http://www.ers.state.tx.us) or by calling 1-877-275-4377.

## Texas Legislature

Continued from page 3.

sion allowing the purchase of out-of-state service from 10 years to 15 years. As in the past, one year of out-of-state service may be purchased for each year of Texas service -- now up to a maximum of 15 years. [Subject to limitations that may apply from the Internal Revenue Code for acquisition of non-qualified permissive service.]



### Other

- Allows a retiree to revoke a beneficiary designation of a spouse or former spouse to receive an optional retirement annuity if the beneficiary signs a notarized consent form provided by TRS.

- Allows members participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) on September 1, 2001, to revoke participation between September 1 and December 31, 2001.

- Moves up the penalty date from the 11<sup>th</sup> day to the 7<sup>th</sup> day after the last day of the month for late employer reports and deposits to TRS. Allows TRS to grant a waiver of the deadline based on a district's financial or technological resources. [Effective September 1, 2002]

- Clarifies the confidentiality of individual participant records held with TRS.

- Eliminates the annual report of earnings required of disability retirees. [House Bill 927 by Representative Fred Hill mirrors this provision.]

- Eliminates the provision for post-retirement reinstatement of service credit and membership in TRS (known as re-retirement).

### New

- Provides new guidelines for the certification of companies offering voluntary investment options

for local school employees that are applicable under Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b). [Effective June 1, 2002]

### Proportionate Retirement Program

Companion bills, Senate Bill 372 and House Bill 1428 by Senator Gonzalo Barrientos and Representative John Longoria, were both passed and sent to the governor with substantially similar provisions.

- A member of a participating retirement system\* may reestablish credit for service the employee earned in another participating retirement system, but which the employee previously had canceled, even though the member is not currently a member of the system of which he or she is buying back service. Certain restrictions apply.

\*TRS, Employees Retirement System, Judicial Retirement System Plans One and Two, Texas County and District Retirement System, Texas Municipal Retirement System, City of Austin, El Paso Municipal Employees Retirement System, and El Paso Fire and Police Retirement System

### Health Care for Active Public School Employees

**House Bill 3343**, by Representative Paul Sadler and Senator Teel

**HB 3343** Bivins, establishes a statewide health care benefits program for employees of school districts, charter schools, regional education service centers, and other educational districts whose employees are members of TRS. It is effective September 1, 2002, and will be administered by TRS. TRS retirees will continue to be covered by the existing TRS-Care program. The new initiative for active public school employees is designed to address the most critical areas of the state with regard to availability and affordability of health care for public school employees. Initially, the program will cover smaller districts, but it may broaden to include larger districts over a period of time. The principal features of the legislation include the following.

### Funding

- The state will provide \$1,000 per year (\$83 a month) for each active school employee, whether or not the employee participates in either the state program or a local district insurance program, that may be used to pay for additional employee coverage, dependent coverage, or taken as compensation, depending on the employee's choice.

- All districts, whether participating in the state insurance program or not, will receive a monthly contribution from the state of \$75 per employee covered by either the state program or a local district program.

- Districts must contribute at least an additional \$150 monthly per active employee for the employee's coverage -- part of which may be funded by state supplemental assistance.

### Participation

- School districts with 500 or fewer employees—over 80 percent of the state's school districts—will participate in the new active public school employee health care program beginning in the 2002-2003 school year unless they are participating in a risk pool or are self-insured and opt not to participate.

- Districts that on January 1, 2001, had between 501 and 1,000 employees may join the program but must *make this decision and notify TRS before September 30, 2001*. Districts with more than 500 employees will have another opportunity to join the program as of September 1, 2005, unless TRS determines that an earlier opt-in is feasible.

Program details are currently being formulated. As information becomes available, TRS will communicate as much as possible directly to employers, as well as to

Continued on page 8.

# Teacher Retirement System of Texas

1000 Red River Street/Austin, TX 78701-2698

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Sick Leave Conversion Factors

Age last Birthday	Months											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
50	139.4887	139.4006	139.3126	139.2245	139.1365	139.0484	138.9604	138.8723	138.7843	138.6962	138.6082	138.5201
51	138.4321	138.3386	138.2452	138.1517	138.0583	137.9648	137.8714	137.7779	137.6845	137.5911	137.4976	137.4042
52	137.3107	137.2117	137.1127	137.0137	136.9146	136.8156	136.7166	136.6176	136.5186	136.4195	136.3205	136.2215
53	136.1225	136.0177	135.9130	135.8083	135.7035	135.5988	135.4941	135.3893	135.2846	135.1799	135.0751	134.9704
54	134.8657	134.7549	134.6442	134.5335	134.4227	134.3120	134.2012	134.0905	133.9798	133.8690	133.7583	133.6476
55	133.5368	133.4197	133.3025	133.1854	133.0682	132.9511	132.8340	132.7168	132.5997	132.4825	132.3654	132.2482
56	132.1311	132.0073	131.8835	131.7597	131.6359	131.5121	131.3883	131.2645	131.1407	131.0169	130.8931	130.7693
57	130.6455	130.5151	130.3846	130.2542	130.1238	129.9934	129.8629	129.7325	129.6021	129.4716	129.3412	129.2108
58	129.0804	128.9436	128.8069	128.6701	128.5333	128.3966	128.2598	128.1231	127.9863	127.8496	127.7128	127.5761
59	127.4393	127.2966	127.1539	127.0112	126.8685	126.7258	126.5830	126.4403	126.2976	126.1549	126.0122	125.8695
60	125.7268	125.5782	125.4297	125.2811	125.1326	124.9840	124.8355	124.6869	124.5384	124.3898	124.2413	124.0927
61	123.9442	123.7899	123.6356	123.4813	123.3271	123.1728	123.0185	122.8642	122.7099	122.5557	122.4014	122.2471
62	122.0928	121.9330	121.7732	121.6133	121.4535	121.2937	121.1339	120.9741	120.8142	120.6544	120.4946	120.3348
63	120.1749	120.0099	119.8448	119.6797	119.5147	119.3496	119.1845	119.0195	118.8544	118.6893	118.5243	118.3592
64	118.1941	118.0243	117.8545	117.6847	117.5149	117.3451	117.1752	117.0054	116.8356	116.6658	116.4960	116.3262
65	116.1563	115.9822	115.8081	115.6340	115.4599	115.2858	115.1116	114.9375	114.7634	114.5893	114.4152	114.2411

*Other factors are available upon request from the TRS Web site.*

## Texas Legislature

*Continued from page 7.*

TRS members through newsletters and the TRS Web site. Additional information about the program will be provided to districts by July 31st, in order to allow the districts with between 501-1,000 employees to decide whether to declare their intent to participate in the program before the September 30 deadline.

## TRS-Care tips on plan correspondence

TRS-Care encourages plan participants to carefully read correspondence that they receive related to TRS-Care benefits. Here are a few tips:

- Be sure to open all of your mail from Aetna—there could be a check, member identification card, or other important information inside.

- Please save your health plan's Explanation of Benefits (EOB) forms. Not only can these forms help you compare your remaining payment liability (patient's responsibility) with the bills that you receive from your provider, but they can also be handy for income tax purposes.